

BETWEEN CIVIL LIBERTY AND NATIONAL SECURITY
IN JAMES MCTEIGUE'S *V FOR VENDETTA* (2006):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

V for Vendetta movie is a thriller movie that was directed by James McTeigue. James McTeigue is an Australian film director. He was born in Tauranga, New Zealand. As the director, he was successfully released many film, including *The Escape* (1994), *The Matrix Trilogy* (1999-2003), *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones* (2002), *V for Vendetta* (2006), and now *Ninja Assassin* (2009). The arranger music in this movie is Dario Marianelly. The movie is starred by Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving, Stephen Rea, John Hurt, Stephen Fry, Tim Piggott-Smith, Rupert Graves, and Roger Allam.

V for Vendetta is a movie that adapted from comic book written by Alan Moore. Alan Moore is an English writer known for work in comics, including the acclaimed comic book series *Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta* and *From Hell*. He was born at 18 November 1953 in Northampton, England. Besides as comics writer, he also as novelist, short story writer, screen writer, musician, cartoonist, and also magician. *V for Vendetta* was released on March 17, 2006 by Warner Bros Pictures. In the making of this movie require expense \$54 million. This movie running in 132 minutes. *V for Vendetta* is a

thriller movie because the story is very interesting and make we conscious with freedom.

This movie begins with fond memories at November 5, the gunpowder treason and plot. A man who is wearing a mask introducing with the name of V rescues a young woman, Evey Hammond from a gang of police agents known as *Fingermen*. After dispatching the fingermen, V invites Evey to a rooftop and listen to the orchestra music. The bomb explosion happen in front of Evey, equal to the end of the music. From that meeting Evey feel V always follow her. It is provable with V come to Evey's work place in Jordan Tower building and take the bomb in room control. Before the building explosion, police have succeeded to cut the bomb cables. V takes Evey to his secret house, which he calls "The Shadow Galery". Since that time that Evey has no permitted out by V, because he wants to protect Evey from police.

The next V confronts three party figures to accuse them: Lewis Prothero, Anthony Lilliman, and Delia Surridge. Lewis Prothero is a producer and broadcaster from TV BTN who serves as the "Voice of London". Anthony Lilliman is a clergyman that has sexual deviation, and Delia Surridge is an apolitical doctor who once had a relationship with Finch a police whose handling V's actions. They are persons that have important relationship in Larkhil prison.

This movie climax is in 5 November night, where all people in London comply with V's request to come together to witnessed Parliament building

exploded. They use V's Costume, black surplice and mask to deceive police in that place. Among these Londoners, we see the faces of those who have died, including the little girl shot by the police for wearing the mask; a pair of gay men seen in Valerie's flashback; Evey's parents and younger brother; Valerie and her partner, Ruth; and Gordon Deitrich. Without orders, the British Army stands down in the face of a civil rebellion. The explosion destroys parliament. On a nearby rooftop, Evey and Finch watch the scene together. Finch asks who V really was, and Evey answers that he was "all of us."

V for Vendetta has been the subject of critical. In several countries, this movie gets prohibition for turned because certain reason. One of the reason can influence the public who have the quality anarchist to tension of government. In this case, public will try to shatter official government pass through terrorist actions. This is making the government so scare. Claudia Puig state that "The dark and stylized *V for Vendetta* is visually exhilarating, provocative and disturbing". *V for Vendetta* is an action thriller that deeper message about personal responsibility, political oppression and revolutionary.

This movie becomes favorite movie. *V for Vendetta* show freedom is something has considerable value and proper fought. *V for Vendetta* is a proper on view because this movie contains tension concerning the totalitarian government. "People should not be afraid of their governments. Governments should be afraid of their people" as a Roger said. Surely, in the ideal state governments and their people should exist happily together.

V for Vendetta had its first major premiere on February 13 at the Berlin Film Festival. *V for Vendetta* falls on Box office because this movie turned in 3,365 theaters in the United States, the United Kingdom and six other countries. The movie led the United States box office on its opening day and remained the number one movie remainder of the weekend.

Besides *V for Vendetta* has turned in many theaters, this film won Best Production Design from San Diego Film Critics Society Awards (SDFCS awards) in 2006. In addition, in 2007 Natalie Portman, the major Character in *V for Vendetta* won the Best Actress awards in Saturn Awards. In the same year *V for Vendetta* be included as nominated in Saturn Award category Best Costume, Best Science Fiction Film and Best Writing by Larry Wachowski and Andy Wachowski.

This film *V for Vendetta's* story is interested to be observed because it attracts the writer in certain aspects. This film takes from comic-book written by Alan Moore. The first point of interest in the *V for Vendetta* is the characters of the movie. Especially, Evey Hammond as a major character. She has firm founding in her life, not scare anything if that is true based on her mind. She is not easy fear although she has tortured and diseased. V is someone has ambition to reverence with corrupt totalitarian government with his action. He has planning to explosion bomb in many important building. In addition, Eric Finch, he is a police that handle V's actions. He is nevertheless honorable and decent, and trusted by the leader because he is reliable and without ambition.

The second point of interest in *V for Vendetta* is the plot. James McTeigue uses traditional plot in this movie. At first, he wants to show V's ambition to explosion important building. It is to remember about Guy Fawkes' action at 1600s. V's actions has message that touches the audiences to get liberty or freedom from government.

The third point is the theme. The writer interested in analyzes this movie because this movie has theme that be aware of liberty. Therefore, the writer find the theme from this movie is "justice is impossible without liberty". We will feel not get justice if our liberty is limited. In this movie liberty shows in V's actions that have ambition to destroy totalitarian government with threaten to explosion bomb in several places.

As a citizen in a country, people have their liberty in their country. Civil liberties are rights and freedoms that protect an individual from the state. Civil liberties set limits on government so that its members cannot abuse their power and interfere unduly with the lives of private citizens. Common civil liberties include the right of people, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, to right to due process, to a trial, to own property, and to privacy. However, occasionally civil liberties make national security is danger. Because with their liberties, they often doing action that danger for country.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the movie within the sociological approach, with the title in this research paper

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B. Literature Review

There are two researchers who have conducted the study of *V for Vendetta*. The first is, Brian L. Ott (2010) entitled “*The Visceral Politics of V for Vendetta: On Political Affect in Cinema*.” The focus of this study is *V for Vendetta* as Cinematic rhetoric. The conclusion of the study is the evaluation of cinematic rhetoric, the political import of mass art, and the character and role of affects in politic.

The second is Jeremy Keith (2006) entitled “*Adactio: V for Vendetta*.” The focus of this study is on the character of V. V has a complex character in the book, and he is equally complex in the film. He is a hero and a villain. He is a murderer and a terrorist, yet he is charming and sympathetic.

The differences of this study and two previous studies are in the theme and perspectives. Here, the researcher presents the study between Civil Liberty and National Security on James McTeigue in creating *V for Vendetta* film using sociological approach. The writer uses *V for Vendetta*, a script by James McTeigue as the data source to be analyzed.

C. Problem of the Study

Based on the background, the problem of the research is how the tension between civil liberty and national security is reflected in James McTeigue's *V for Vendetta*.

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on sociological approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher will focus on the analysis of tension between civil liberty and national security in James McTeigue's *V for Vendetta* by sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this research are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to the larger body in knowledge or the development of knowledge particularly studies in James McTeigue's *V for Vendetta*.

2. Practical Benefit

To get deeper understanding in literary study, particularly the application of sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher will use the qualitative research in the form of literary work.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the research is between civil liberty and national security reflected in James McTeigue's *V for Vendetta*.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source.

The type of data employed in this research are text and image. Text that consist of word, phrases, and sentences. Image that is scene of the movie itself. The data sources are classified into two categories namely primary data and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the movie itself while the secondary data sources are script text and some references related to the research.

4. Technique the Data Collection

The writer uses note-taking and image-capturing in collecting data, which involves several steps, as follows:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of the important part in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Reading the script related reference and understanding them to observe the data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis.

In this thesis the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. It is begun with analyzing the structural elements and then sociological analysis of the movie.

H. Research Paper Organization.

This study is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which explains the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II is dealing with the underlying theory, it consists of notion of sociology of literature, approaches of sociological perspective, and structural elements of the movie. Chapter III is social historical background of English society in the early twenty first century. Chapter IV is structural analysis: the writer wants to explain the structural element of the movie and discussion. Chapter V constitutes sociological analysis of the movie. The last is Chapter VI contains conclusion and discussion.